

TALKING SHOP WITH A WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

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WASHINGTON—Talking shop is said to be one of the unparadonable sins. Possibly writing shop may be forgiven; but whether or no the chance is to be taken. Readers of newspapers complain occasionally about the lateness of the sources of Washington correspondence information. Readers of newspapers do not know, possibly, that the law of official Washington is against quotation marks coupled with the name of the one who talks, unless specific permission for name and quotations be given.

Ninety-nine times out of 100 when a newspaper having a Washington correspondent publishes, under a capital city date line, that on high authority in a certain department "it may be said," etc., the correspondent has been talking with the chief of the department or with one close to him officially that the voice of the one is as the voice of the other.

The president of the United States is never to be quoted, but it is probable that things the president has said directly have gone to the public some thousands of times through the newspapers of the country, although it is extremely likely that many of the readers, in view of the fact that direct words to the effect that the president has spoken and quotation marks were absent, hesitated to believe that what they read came from the White House.

It has been said that the president of the United States is never to be quoted. That is the rule. Once in a great while presidents take the ban off and say: "You may say that I said so." Ordinarily when Mr. Taft or any of his predecessors in office have had occasion to put forth a pronouncement it has been prepared with forethought and has been given out in printed form to be put upon the wires for general consumption.

The president talks to the Washington correspondents perhaps more than semi-occasionally and unless inhibited they may charge their own words with the spirit of what he has said and then give it to the readers of what they write. The first lesson that a newly appointed correspondent has to learn is that no matter how sharp and direct a statement is given to him by any official it is not to be used with a name unless permission is given.

Permission generally is given, save in the cases of the president and the cabinet officers, and even in these cases there is the general understanding that the statements may be put before the public in such form that it may be known definitely that either executive or cabinet authority has spoken.

The White House is the source of the greater part of the daily interesting news that goes out of Washington and by the White House one does not necessarily mean the president. More legislative news is to be had in the outer offices of the executive mansion than is to be had in the capital itself. Of course this statement has no reference to the actual passing of legislation.

No bill of great importance having a Republican origin ever goes into the hopper of congress unless its merits or demerits have been pretty well discussed in the office of the president. The Republican member who has a measure of national moment to introduce into congress naturally goes to the president to get from him his opinion.

Frequently, more than frequently, the senator or representative who has conferred with the president is willing to tell the world through the newspapers how the chief executive looks upon the legislation which he has in hand. This holds of course only when the measure has been met with presidential favor and not with presidential frowning.

Senators and members and callers from a distance get access to the president's room through an outer office, where during the morning hours newspaper correspondents assemble. From this little office there is a daily shadowing forth of future events.

It may not be wide of the mark to tell how once on a time a Washington correspondent, who, with 20 of his fellows, was in the outer White House office, secured what is known to the daily writing fraternity as a "scoop" and secured it under the very noses of his fellows. This thing hardly can happen more than once in a newspaper man's lifetime under similar circumstances.

It was in the early days of railroad rate agitation. The White House was anxious to know what the president intended to do, what bill for rate regulation he intended to endorse and what member of congress was to be the lucky father of the measure which was to hold the country's interest certainly for an entire session.

While the correspondents were in the White House office a man came out from the president's room, passed unchallenged by the newspaper men, for apparently none of them knew him, and walked rapidly away from the entrance in the direction of Pennsylvania avenue. One correspondent did know this man by sight, but he held his peace and his own counsel.

Before the president's visitor had vanished from sight, however, the correspondent who knew who he was started after him and over-

took him. The correspondent was taking the one chance in 500 that he could "land" a story. He happened to know that the president's visitor was an absolutely new member of congress from Michigan and a man who had made a considerable study in his home state of railroad problems.

The one chance in 500 won out. The visitor who had been at the White House was Representative Charles E. Townsend and he had with him on



that morning the assurance of Theodore Roosevelt that there was presidential approval of every line of a railroad rate bill which Mr. Townsend had in his pocket and which he was going to introduce into congress.

Mr. Townsend told the correspondent all that he asked about and furthermore he volunteered the information that the bill which he had in his pocket would be the railroad rate bill which would pass the house of representatives at the session which was yet young. Mr. Townsend never would have made this statement unless he had the firm assurance of Mr. Roosevelt that the bill had his sanction and would have back of it all the influence which the White House properly could use.

The correspondent secured an exclusive piece of news for his paper and felt justified apparently in saying that the Townsend measure would be the railroad rate measure which the house would do its part in enacting into law. Subsequent events proved that when the Michigan representative said that his bill would be the bill to be sanctioned by the house of representatives he knew what he was talking about. The bill did pass the house and it failed to become a law only because the senate wanted time to consider the legislation.

When the summer comes and congress is not in session and the president is on his travels or at his warm weather quarters at the seashore, the correspondents get many of their writing texts from the departments.

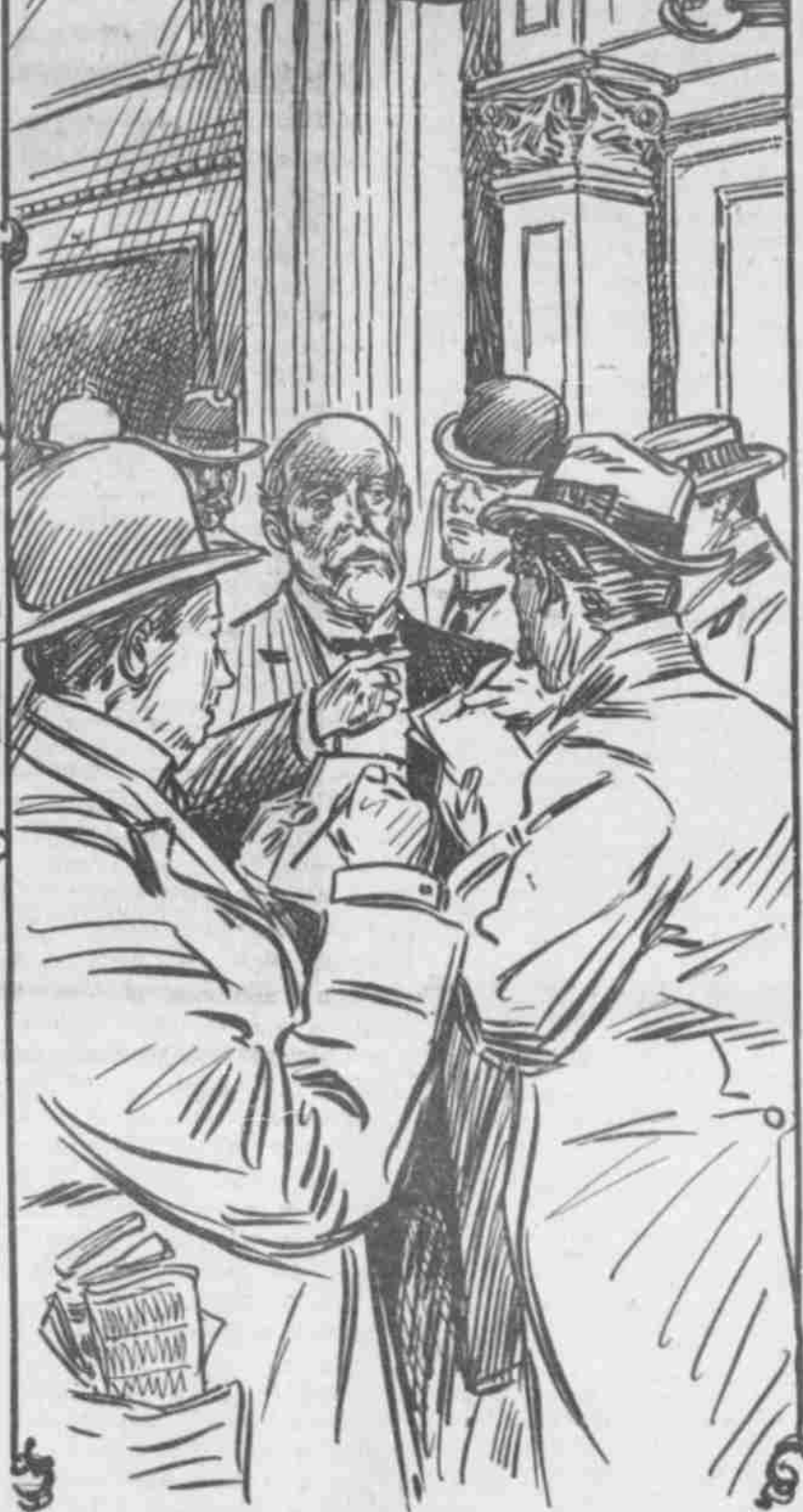
Three years ago there was fear that congress might fail to pass the appropriation necessary for continuing the usefulness of the biological survey. The members of congress were in dense ignorance about the things that the naturalists of the survey were doing for the good of the country. These field workers save the country millions of dollars annually and yet at times in the past they have had a hard time to get the paltry \$52,000 appropriation needed to keep the survey alive. This year the scientists were given about \$17,000 additional to carry on their work. The money was secured after Dr. Merriam, the survey's chief, had made a strong appeal.

When it was feared that no appropriation at all was to be made for the survey three years ago by the members of the Fifty-ninth congress, news of the fact that the department might pass from its sphere of usefulness was sent through the country by the Washington correspondents. The response was instant. The mails were loaded with letters of protest from every state and territory. The chief of the survey had letters of support and the members of congress heard in protest from hundreds of people who no one supposed from their vocations in life would take any interest in natural history research.

There were letters by the hundreds also from the farmers and the stock raisers and from the students of ornithology and mammalogy who had benefited by the painstaking work of the naturalists whose headquarters are in Washington, but whose homes, when it



HON. CHARLES E. TOWNSEND



is possible, are in the fields and the woods. The weight of public opinion was felt by congress and an interest was aroused among members who barely knew that there was such an institution as the biological survey.

It might be asked what the biological survey does to benefit the country. Instances of its service are not difficult to find. The stock-raising interests of the western states suffer losses—or rather have suffered until recently—to the amount of about \$12,000,000 yearly through the depredations of wild animals—wolves, coyotes and cougars.

Poison was the instrument employed to kill the predatory animals. Strychnine was the means of death and while it cost thousands of dollars a year it was by no means efficacious. The stockmen complained that the wolves bred in the forest reserves were in a large measure responsible for the increase in the numbers of the ravaging packs.

This argument is used to combat the forest reserve plan of the government. Vernon W. Bailey, of the biological survey, went west and studied the wolf question. He found that the wolves did not breed in the forest reserves in any numbers. He located their breeding places and in his report told the stockmen how to rid themselves of the pests without the necessity of resorting to the costly strychnine poisoning process. The reports show that the wolf work of the survey already has saved the stockmen many times the amount of money that the government supplies yearly for the support of the survey.

In the Humboldt valley of Nevada there was a plague of field mice. An expert of the biological survey was sent to the scene of trouble. He found that in some sections of the valley the mice averaged 8,000 to the acre, a number that seems almost impossible, but the truth of the report is verified.

The mice were destroying the alfalfa which is grown in the valley at a rate which made it certain that within a short time the industry of alfalfa raising must disappear. The crop of the year was cut short one-third by the ravages of the mice and a loss of \$50,000 was entailed.

When absolute ruin of the industry was confronting the alfalfa ranch owners the work of the naturalists of the survey was begun and it is now practically certain that the plague of mice will disappear as did the plague of Egypt at the word of Moses.

The survey was appealed to by the bureau

of irrigation for help in checking the damage done to ditches by burrowing animals. One gopher hole in an embankment caused a loss of \$2,500 and in many places irrigation was almost impossible because of the undermining work done by small animals. The work of the burrowers made way for the water which by the erosion process did the rest. The scientists of the biological survey, after experimenting, taught the men interested in irrigation how to protect themselves against the inroads of the small beasts "that work in darkness."

The scientists recently were engaged in the work of checking the depredations of the ground squirrels of the far west and northwest. The annual damage that these animals inflicted on growing crops was enormous. The biological survey worked out a plan for the extermination of the squirrels, a plan that brought success.

One of the labors of the scientists of the survey has been to show the different states how the full benefits of game protection may be obtained and how the game in each state may be made to yield an important annual revenue. Illinois alone, as a direct result of information received from the biological survey, has added to its income annually \$125,000. The state of Missouri has benefited to the extent of \$50,000 and more money will come to it if it follows more closely the directions which it can get gratis from the government officials.

Not one-tenth part of the good that the biological survey has done and is doing has been set down here. The survey needs more money to carry on its field work. Every dollar spent means dollars returned to the people and yet it was hard work to induce congress to grant the additional sum of \$17,000 which the scientists asked that they might enlarge the field of their good work.

Women Becoming Flat-Footed

Are the women of the American nation becoming "flat-footed?" This is a question which has been propounded and which is answered by a man who has spent the last 15 years in the study of the subject and who unhesitatingly claims such a fate is awaiting many young women, who are careless of their feet.

The tendency of women to high-heeled shoes and pumps is working disaster to their feet and the ailments of the feet are in turn working disaster to their nervous systems.

A shoe with the original shape well preserved indicates the woman with an even temperament, well-poised mind, careful in the details of her existence and lacking of a frivolous nature.

A shoe with the sole upturned in front and the top wrinkled indicates the woman who walks much, is either a hard-working salesgirl or a belle in society. She is of the happy-go-lucky sort, in either case, and with proper training may be brought to a reasonable appreciation of the stern realities of life. Not that she is frivolous, but she is just a good sort of a woman whom anyone can love.

A shoe with the top stretched, showing that the foot within is spread out, indicates the student woman, the kind who are society reporters on newspapers or who write thrilling love tales with a trend toward socialism.

A shoe with the sides of the sole turned up indicates the woman whose mind turns to amusement and who is frivolous to a degree. She is the sort of a woman who loves flirtations and who is tickle.

A shoe with the heel run down on either side is indicative of a woman whom all should look out for. She is negligent in her habits and inclined to slovenliness—the kind who will let the dinner dishes go unwashed until morning if she chances to be your wife. Beware of her, because she has an ungovernable temper.

A shoe with the heel shored forward indicates the woman of extreme nervous temperament. If you have ever observed you have found that in nine out of ten cases the hysterical woman, with nerves unstrung, wears out her shoes in this fashion.

These are a few of the most important rules in determining the character of women, but the phase upon which the foot authority places the greatest emphasis is the tendency toward flat-footedness. Nearly everyone is troubled in this respect and the affliction does not bespeak any special trait of character. But the subjugation of one's health and happiness to the dictates of style is as common in America that unless something is done to check it, only a few years will elapse before women, and men too, will be as flat-footed as the mongrel natives of the African forests.

A PROPOSAL



Mr. Hardup—Good morning, Miss Aughtum—ahem! There is something I have been wishing to ask you for some time, but—er—the fact is, I haven't been able to screw up enough courage to—er—come to the point.
Miss Aughtum—A proposal at last!
Mr. Hardup—Could you, my dear Miss Aughtum—could you lend me five dollars?

IN AGONY WITH ECZEMA.

Whole Body a Mass of Raw, Bleeding, Torturing Humor—Hoped Death Would End Painful Suffering.

In Despair; Cured by Cuticura.

"Words cannot describe the terrible eczema I suffered with. It broke out on my head and kept spreading until it covered my whole body. I was almost a solid mass of sores from head to foot. I looked more like a piece of raw beef than a human being. The pain and agony endured seemed more than I could bear. Blood and pus oozed from the great sores on my scalp, from under my finger nails, and nearly all over my body. My ears were so crusted and swollen I was afraid they would break off. Every hair in my head fell out. I could not sit down, for my clothes would stick to the raw and bleeding flesh, making me cry out from the pain. My family doctor did all he could, but I got worse and worse. My condition was awful. I did not think I could live, and wanted death to come and end my frightful sufferings.

"In this condition my mother-in-law begged me to try the Cuticura Remedies. I said I would, but had no hope of recovery. But oh, what blessed relief I experienced after applying Cuticura Ointment. It cooled the bleeding and itching flesh and brought me the first real sleep I had had in weeks. It was as grateful as ice to a burning tongue. I would bathe with warm water and Cuticura Soap, then apply the Ointment freely. I also took Cuticura Resolvent for the blood. In a short time the sores stopped running, the flesh began to heal, and I knew I was to get well again. Then the hair on my head began to grow, and in a short time I was completely cured. I wish I could tell everybody who has eczema to use Cuticura. Mrs. Wm. Hunt, 125 Thomas St., Newark, N. J., Sept. 28, 1908."

Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

And Ma Fainted.

"Why did she refuse you?" she asked her son, with fine scorn.

"Well," the boy replied between his sobs, "she objects to our family. She says pa's a loafer, that you're too fat and that everybody laughs at Dayne Mayne because she's a fool and talks about nothing but the greatness of her family." (Chauncey threw water in his mother's face, but at three o'clock this afternoon she was still in a swoon, with four doctors working on her.)—*Atchison (Kan.) Globe.*

Never Satisfied.

Her—Oh, oh! Something's crawling down my back!

Him—Well, you'd make just as much fuss if it was crawling up your back. Let it alone.—*Cleveland Leader.*

Life's Unequal Combat.

You, a river, are contending with the ocean.—*Latin*

ALL UP-TO-DATE HOUSEKEEPERS Use Red Cross Ball Blue. It makes clothes clean and sweet as when new. All grocers.

The mere fact that a man doesn't call you a liar is no reason that he doesn't think you are one.

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It comes equipped with the finest of the finest. When irritated we have pain, itching, burning, and when the cause, take Faldin (Ferry Dairies).

France made over \$225,000,000 out of chicken farming.

Kansas City Directory

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